

The Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago

NEWS

NICHOLAS J. MELAS
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT 100 EAST ERIE STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 (312) 751-5600

For Immediate Release

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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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MSD CITES SUBURBAN DISCHARGER FOR WASTE DISPOSAL

President Nicholas J. Melas announced today that MSD pollution control officers have discovered a waste disposal site in Lemont, Illinois discharging high levels of toxic materials. The owner of the J.J. Schultz Containers Company, Mr. Joseph Schultz, has been cited for violation of MSD anti-pollution ordinances and will appear at a Violation Hearing to be held at MSD offices at 2 PM today.

Routine helicopter patrol by MSD officers on June 11, 1980 revealed the operation. The following day, officers arrived at the company and investigated. They discovered that Schultz was dumping the wastes removed from industrial containers into a small 18" x 18" x 18" pit. J.J. Schultz is a company that cleans and disposes of industrial containers.

"And in his eight years of dumping industrial wastes into that small hole in the ground, the hole never filled up," President Melas noted. "Those pollutants are going somewhere and could eventually affect the waterways. It's seeping down through fissures in the rock under the surface," Melas said.

Early results of analyses indicate the following pollutants were present in the materials discharged by Schultz:

| <u>Material</u> | <u>Levels Present</u> | <u>Levels Allowed by MSD</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Fats, oils, grease | 510,000 mg/l | 15 mg/l |
| Chromium | 347 mg/l | .3 mg/l |
| Iron | 97 mg/l | 2 mg/l |
| Nickel | 296 mg/l | 1 mg/l |
| Lead | 2.5 mg/l | .1 mg/l |
| Zinc | 35 mg/l | 1 mg/l |

more

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MSD Cites Suburban Discharger

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"We know there are chemicals involved, too, but analyses for them take longer and we don't have those results yet.

"I should point out that this situation is similar to the two illegal dumps we found in the Calumet area a week ago. But there is this difference: in Calumet, the chemicals and other toxics were confined on the land being used as a dump. Here, the toxics are going somewhere, but we're not sure where. We have to trace the path of these materials from the time they enter the waste pit to their final destination. Until then, we won't know how serious this situation might be," Mr. Melas said.

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